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(21) Application number: 09-276405 (71) Applicant: HONDA MOTOR CO LTD

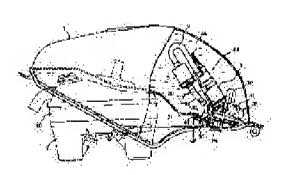
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(54) VEHICLE FUEL SUPPLY SYSTEM



(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To prevent the pulsating phenomenon by arranging a sponge-like adsorptive member between a strainer and the top end part of a fuel return pipe, and supplying a liquid fuel gas-liquid separated from the fuel adsorptive member even near the lower limit of the fuel. SOLUTION: A stainless-made fuel adsorptive member 35 is arranged on a strainer. The fuel adsorptive member 35 is formed of a porous elastic body consisting of a stainless wire rod or strip material made into a coil shape, and it is formed so as to have a communicating cavity slightly large, compared with the size of the mesh in a wire gauze

foreign matter removing filter provided in the strainer, and the gas included in the return fuel can be separated from the fuel liquid in the adsorptive process. The liquid fuel gas-liquid separated from the fuel adsorptive member 35 can be supplied even near the lower limit of the fuel, and the breathing phenomenon can be prevented.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The fuel supply system for cars characterized by arranging a sponge-like fuel adsorption member between said strainer and a fuel return tubing point in the fuel supply system for cars equipped with a fuel tank, the fuel pump which sends the fuel attracted through the

strainer formed in this interior to an engine fuel-supply system, and fuel return tubing which returns a surplus fuel into a fuel tank from a fuel-supply system.

[Claim 2] The fuel supply system for cars indicated to claim 1 characterized by said fuel adsorption member consisting of a corrosion resistance metal.

[Claim 3] The fuel supply system for cars indicated to claim 1 characterized by forming the septum with which a part for the part near the inhalation opening of a fuel pump and the front flank is divided at least in said fuel tank.

[Claim 4] The fuel supply system for cars indicated to claim 3 characterized by holding a fuel adsorption member by said septum.

[Claim 5] The fuel supply system for cars indicated to claim 1 characterized by being constituted for two automatic vehicles thru/or either of 4.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the fuel supply system for cars for supplying a fuel to an engine fuel-supply system from the fuel tank established in cars, such as a two automatic vehicle. [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] While forming a subtank into a fuel tank and forming a fuel pump into this subtank, the fuel supply system for cars to which opening of the point of fuel return tubing was carried out is shown in JP, 63-227949, A. Moreover, the outline configuration of the fuel supply system for cars which has an in tank type pump for two

automatic vehicles is shown in drawing 6.

[0003] In this drawing 6, a fuel pump 2 is formed in the back bottom in a fuel tank 1, and that inhalation opening 3 is connected to the strainer 4 which has the tailing filter of the mesh made of resin. Through the high-pressure fuel filter 6, the regurgitation pipe 5 which extends from the delivery of a fuel pump 2 is sent to the throttle body 7 of the fuel tank 1 exterior, and is further injected from an injector 8 to an engine combustion chamber. Moreover, some fuels are returned to about four strainer through connection hose 10a and the fuel return tubing 10 from the pressure regulator 9 of a throttle body 7 as a surplus fuel.

[0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] By the way, the return fuel from fuel return tubing in each above-mentioned well-known example may produce [since many gases are included,] an engine breathing phenomenon, when the fuel in a fuel tank or a subtank becomes near the minimum, and a fuel pump attracts the fuel containing a gas. In addition, the filter for tailing of the shape of a wire gauze established in the strainer in this case is not useful to vapor liquid separation.

[0005] Moreover, in the case of a two automatic vehicle, since the carbody posture change at the time of acceleration and deceleration and revolution becomes large compared with a four-flower automobile, said each breathing phenomenon may be produced also by the liquid level change of the fuel in the case of starting. Therefore, prevention of the breathing phenomenon resulting from these is desired.

[0006]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to solve the above-mentioned technical problem, the 1st invention concerning the fuel supply system for cars of this application In the fuel supply system for cars equipped with a fuel tank, the fuel pump which sends the fuel attracted through the strainer formed in this interior to an engine fuel-supply system, and fuel return tubing which returns a surplus fuel into a fuel tank from a fuel-supply system It is characterized by arranging a sponge-like adsorption member between said strainer and a fuel return tubing point. [0007] The sponge-like ingredient which constitutes a fuel adsorption member is a porous material which consists of many detailed free passage openings, and is an elastic body which is easy to carry out elastic deformation as a whole here, and the ingredient equipped with the function adsorb a fuel inside, and the vapor-liquid-separation function remove the gas component mix into a return fuel at the time of this adsorption is mean, and it consists of a natural material, foaming

synthetic resin, or a metal material. As an example, a fuel adsorption member can be formed with a corrosion resistance metal. Moreover, in this application, with a longitudinal direction, the travelling direction of a car shall be made a cross-direction list, and the condition at the time of transit of a car shall be made into criteria with the vertical direction, respectively.

[0008] 2nd invention is characterized by forming the septum with which a part for the part near the inhalation opening of a fuel pump and the front flank is divided at least in said fuel tank in said 1st invention. At this time, a fuel adsorption member can also be held by this septum of this.

[0009] 3rd invention is characterized by making the fuel supply system of said the 1st or 2nd invention into two automatic vehicles. [0010]

[Effect of the Invention] According to the 1st invention, since the sponge-like fuel adsorption member was arranged between the strainer and the fuel return tubing point, the return fuel from fuel return tubing always piles up in the surroundings of a strainer by carrying out vapor liquid separation and adsorbing a fuel adsorption member. Therefore, since the liquid fuel by which vapor liquid separation was carried out from the fuel adsorption member can be supplied even if it becomes near the minimum of a fuel, a breathing phenomenon can be prevented. And since it piles up in the perimeter of a strainer where a fuel adsorption member is adsorbed, supply of a fuel is attained, without seldom being influenced by change of a car-body posture.

[0011] This fuel adsorption member can be easily formed using sponge ingredients, such as a product made of foaming synthetic resin, and since it is an elastic body, it is hard coming to also generate the noise over vibration. Moreover, if a fuel adsorption member is formed with a corrosion resistance metal, also to an acid return fuel, sufficient endurance can be acquired, and since it is the good metal of heat conduction, while adsorbing a return fuel, it can cool. [0012] According to the 2nd invention, since a part for the part near the inhalation opening of a fuel pump and the front flank is divided with the septum formed in said fuel tank at least, also in the time of the sudden moderation at the time of braking etc., the liquid level change of a fuel [/ near the inhalation opening of a fuel pump] is lessened, and a breathing phenomenon can be prevented by it. Moreover, if a fuel adsorption member is held using this septum, a fuel adsorption member is easily fixable near the strainer.

[0013] According to the 3rd invention, by making this fuel supply system

into two automatic vehicles, change of a car-body posture can prevent a breathing phenomenon effectively also in an intense two automatic vehicle, and serves as a suitable fuel supply system for cars for a two automatic vehicle.

[0014]

[Embodiment of the Invention] The sectional view showing the fuel supply system for cars for two automatic vehicles which drawing 1 requires for the invention in this application, the appearance side elevation of the whole two automatic vehicle by which, as for drawing 2, this invention was applied, and drawing 3 are [that rear view and drawing 5 of the side elevation of a fuel pump small group object and drawing 4] that bottom view. In addition, with the example of drawing 6, since there are many intersections, about these, a common sign is used in the following explanation.

[0015] First, in drawing 2, in the upper part of an engine 13, the main frame 14 which the engine 13 of a V type four-cycle type is arranged between a front wheel 11 and a rear wheel 12, and these two automatic vehicle hangs this engine 13, and is supported makes a Uichi Hidari pair from a head tube 15, and is prolonged to the cross direction of a car body, and the fuel tank 1 is supported on it.

[0016] Bottom raising of the pars basilaris ossis occipitalis of a fuel tank 1 is carried out, space is formed caudad, and the inhalation of air of it is carried out to a downdraft type from the air cleaner 16 held in this space to each gas column of an engine 13, and the fuel of a fuel tank 1 is supplied to coincidence through a throttle body 7 (drawing 1).

[0017] Moreover, from the throttle body 7, it is returned into the fuel tank 1 as a return fuel so that some fuels may mention later. Although the piping structure by the side of a fuel tank 1 is omitted in the detail structure list of a throttle body 7, it is the same as that of what was explained by drawing 6.

[0018] In addition, a rear cowl and 25 are directly supported for the front end to the back end section of the case 26 where the seat rail supporter with which a handle and 21 project from the posterior part of a mainframe 14 in a slanting riser to a front fork, and 22 projects back, and 23 are rear swing arms, and the sign 20 in drawing constitutes an engine 13, enabling free rotation. This case 26 is vertical rate structure, and a crankshaft 27, a main shaft 28, the output sprocket shaft (counter shaft) 29, pivot shaft 25a, etc. arrange it on an abbreviation same straight line, and it is supported by that crack surface 13a.

[0019] As shown in drawing 1, the bottom plate 30 of a fuel tank 1 is falling in slanting [slight] loosely back, the fuel pump small group object 33 is attached in the opening 32 formed in nothing and here in the flat part from a lower part, and the posterior part 31 is covered with the base plate 34.

[0020] As shown also in drawing 3 thru/or drawing 5, the fuel pump small group object 33 is the member which carried out the small group of a fuel pump 2, a strainer 4, the high-pressure fuel filter 6, the fuel return tubing 10, the fuel adsorption member 35, and the septum 36 grade to the bundle on the base plate 34.

[0021] Among these, from the center section of the base plate 34, a fuel pump 2 inclines toward the slanting front by the stay 37 which projects upwards, and is supported, and the high-pressure fuel filter 6 is attached in the opposite side of a fuel pump 2 in the upper part of stay 37. The delivery of a fuel pump 2 and the entrance side of the high-pressure fuel filter 6 are connected in the regurgitation pipe 5.
[0022] It connects with the joint pipe 40 of the branching terminal 39 established in the base plate 34 with the pipe 38, and the outlet side of the high-pressure fuel filter 6 is sent to a throttle body 7 from the branching terminal 39.

[0023] Direct continuation of the inhalation opening 3 of a fuel pump 2 is carried out to a strainer 4, the well-known filter for tailing which makes the shape of a wire gauze is held in this strainer 4, and foreign matters, such as a metal powder mixed into a fuel, are removed.

[0024] On the strainer 4, the fuel adsorption member 35 made from stainless steel is arranged. This fuel adsorption member 35 makes a coiled form the wire rod or strip-like material made from stainless steel, this is wound around cyclic, or it is twined and a well-known thing is in the thing which it was similar by making it the letter of a block as a metal scrubbing brush for home use.

[0025] This fuel adsorption member 35 made from stainless steel be a porosity elastic body, it be form so that it may have a far big free passage opening, while it make opening of the shape of a far detailed stoma compared with the magnitude of the mesh in the filter for tailing of the shape of a wire gauze prepare in a strainer 4, and it have the structure where of the gas mix into a return fuel in an adsorption process by existence of this free passage opening be separable with a fuel liquid.

[0026] A septum 36 is a comparatively small member to the septum which consists of elastic members which can comparatively deform freely, such as rubber, and constitutes the dimension of somewhat large extent for

nothing, the conventional subtank, etc. from a strainer 4. Moreover, extent which can cover the front side of the inhalation opening 3, a strainer 4, and the fuel adsorption member 35 is sufficient for the height.

[0027] While it has started upwards from the base plate 34 so that the lower part of a fuel pump 2, the front which reaches strainer 4, and right and left may be covered, and right and left of the fuel adsorption member 35 are also covered on the side face 40 of the right and left, the presser-foot section 41 which a posterior part side and the upper part are opened wide, and is prolonged to a longitudinal direction between the back end upper parts of a side face 40 is formed in one, and is suppressing the upper part of the fuel adsorption member 35. [0028] The fuel adsorption member 35 upper part is exposed except for the part currently pressed down in the presser-foot section 41, and the point 42 of the fuel return tubing 10 which makes the letter of the abbreviation for U characters to this upper part is located downward. The other end side of the fuel return tubing 10 is connected to the upper limit section of the joint pipe 43 which penetrates a base plate 34 and is prolonged up and down. Although the lower limit section of the joint pipe 43 has omitted illustration, it is connected to the throttle body 7 side by the connection hose (refer to sign 10of drawing 6 a). [0029] In addition, the sign 44 in drawing 3 and drawing 4 is the lead wire of a fuel pump 2. 45 is a bolt run through hole and the bolt 46 which projects below from the periphery section of a base plate 34 in this at one is fixed with through and a nut 47.

[0030] Next, an operation of this example is explained. As shown in drawing 1, by the fuel pump 2, the fuel in a fuel tank 1 is inhaled from the strainer 4 and the inhalation opening 3 of a fuel tank 1 which are mostly located in the bottom, and is sent to a throttle body 7 through the high-pressure fuel filter 6.

[0031] On the other hand, although the return fuel breathed out on the fuel adsorption member 35 from the point 42 of the fuel return tubing 10 mixes comparatively a lot of gases, by having the detailed free passage opening where the fuel adsorption member 35 is countless, into the gap of the fuel adsorption member 35, it adsorbs as liquid fuel by which vapor liquid separation was carried out, and piles up near the strainer 4.

[0032] Therefore, even if a fuel becomes near the minimum, generating of the breathing phenomenon resulting from the mixed gas component is effectively prevented for the liquid fuel with which vapor liquid separation of the fuel supplied to a strainer 4 from the fuel adsorption

member 35 was carried out.

[0033] Moreover, the fuel in the fuel adsorption member 35 can make the effect remarkably small by supplying a fuel from the fuel adsorption member 35, even if the oil level of the fuel which is hard to move even if a car-body posture changes, consequently is in fuel adsorption member 35 perimeter lenticulates, since it is piling up where the fuel adsorption member 35 is adsorbed.

[0034] Since it can cool while adsorbing a fuel and vapor liquid separation can be performed much more efficiently by this for the good metal of heat conduction while being hard to corrode even if it contacts an acid, strong fuel and having sufficient endurance, since the fuel adsorption member 35 is constituted as a sponge-like filter made from stainless steel at this time, the fall of the fuel pressure at the time of an elevated temperature can be lessened, and toughness can be raised. [0035] Furthermore, since a strainer 4 and the space of the front were divided into predetermined height by the septum 36, even if a car-body posture changes as mentioned above, the liquid level change in about four strainer can be lessened further.

[0036] Especially in the case of a two automatic vehicle, although it is easy to move a fuel to the front by sudden braking etc. rapidly, it is useful to lessening the liquid level change of the fuel in the near part of the strainer 4 between this septum 36 and the posterior part wall of a fuel tank 1.

[0037] Moreover, since the septum 36 was used as elastic members, such as rubber, even if a fuel tank 1 vibrates during transit and a septum 36 also vibrates in connection with this, it can avoid generating the noise between the fuel pumps 2 and strainers 4 which contact.

[0038] Since it becomes contact between elastic members while support of the fuel adsorption member 35 becomes easy, since the fuel adsorption member 35 which is an elastic member which is easy to deform by the septum 36 is moreover supported, generating of the noise between both members can also be prevented effectively.

[0039] Furthermore, since the part which does not have to carry out press forming of the bottom plate 30 of a fuel tank 1 to a complicated configuration, does not need to form a septum, and supports the fuel pump small group object 33 of a bottom plate 30 by forming a septum 36 in the fuel pump small group object 33 side of the bottom plate 30 of a fuel tank 1 and another object can be fabricated in a simple configuration as a flat part 31, shaping of a fuel tank 1 also becomes easy.

[0040] in addition, the invention in this application is not limited to

the above-mentioned example, but is deformable to versatility, for example, a fuel adsorption member can use a nonwoven fabric, textile fabrics, or the thing that was knit and was made into the shape of a thing for the metal wool yarn which made the metal fiber which formed the metal in the shape of [of the hair] a microfilament the shape of felt, and such a metal fiber. Furthermore, the proper sponge made of synthetic resin, such as polyurethane foam, can also be used, and sponge and a natural material like sponge rubber can also be used. [0041] Furthermore, fuel supply can also be made into the natural aspiration type using a carburetor instead of a fuel-injection type, and not an in tank type like an example but the format taken out to the exterior of a fuel tank is sufficient as the arrangement format of a fuel pump. Various cars, such as not only a two automatic vehicle but a four-flower passenger car, are possible for the candidate for application further again.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] The sectional view showing the fuel supply system for cars for two automatic vehicles concerning an example

[Drawing 2] The side elevation of the appearance of the whole two automatic vehicle by which the invention in this application was applied.

[Drawing 3] The side elevation of a fuel pump small group object

[Drawing 4] Rear view of a fuel pump small group object

[Drawing 5] The bottom view of a fuel pump small group object

[Drawing 6] Drawing showing roughly the conventional fuel supply system for cars for two automatic vehicles

[Description of Notations]

1: A fuel tank, 2:fuel pump, 3:inhalation opening, 4:strainer, 10:strainer, 33:fuel pump small group object, 34:base plate, 35:fuel adsorption member, 36: septum

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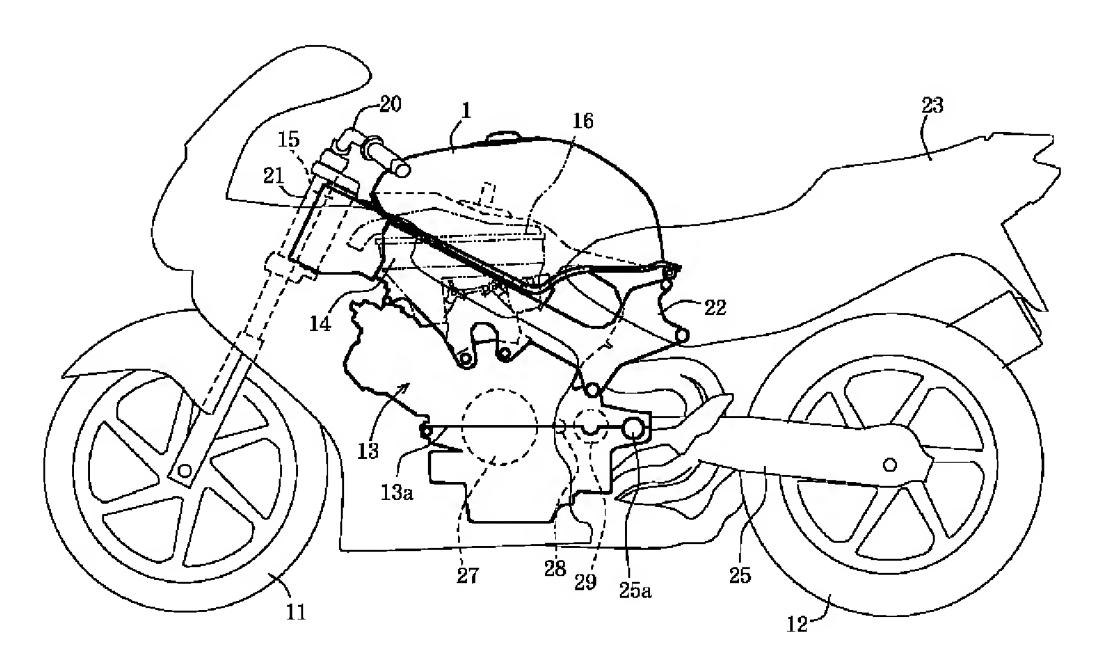
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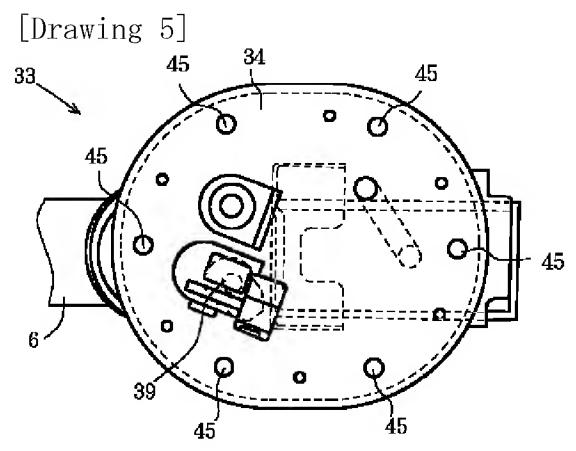
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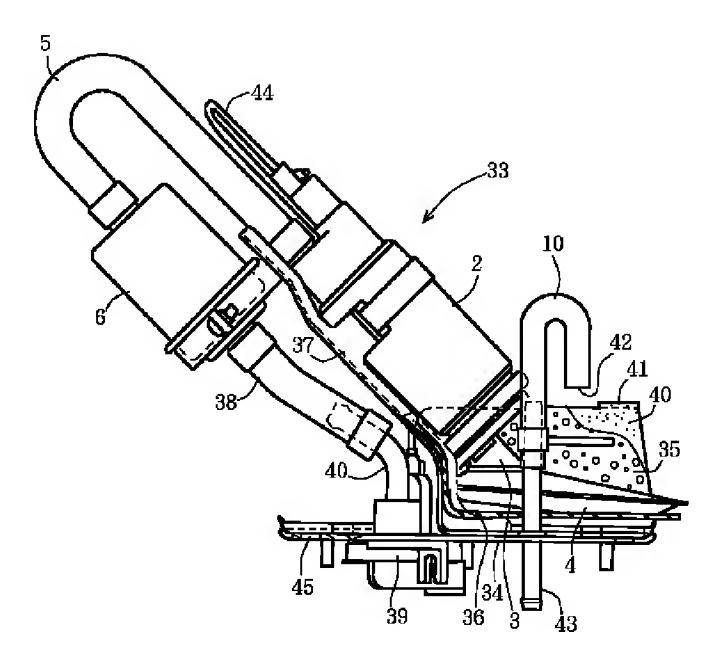
DRAWINGS

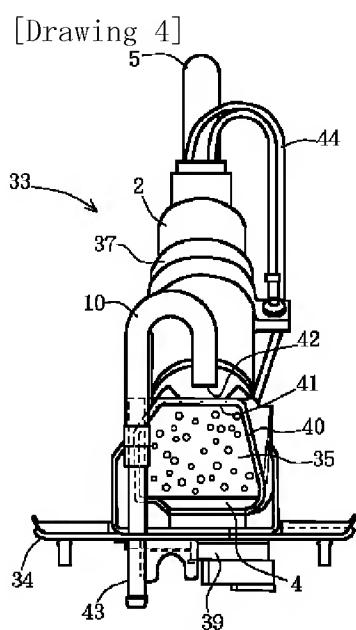
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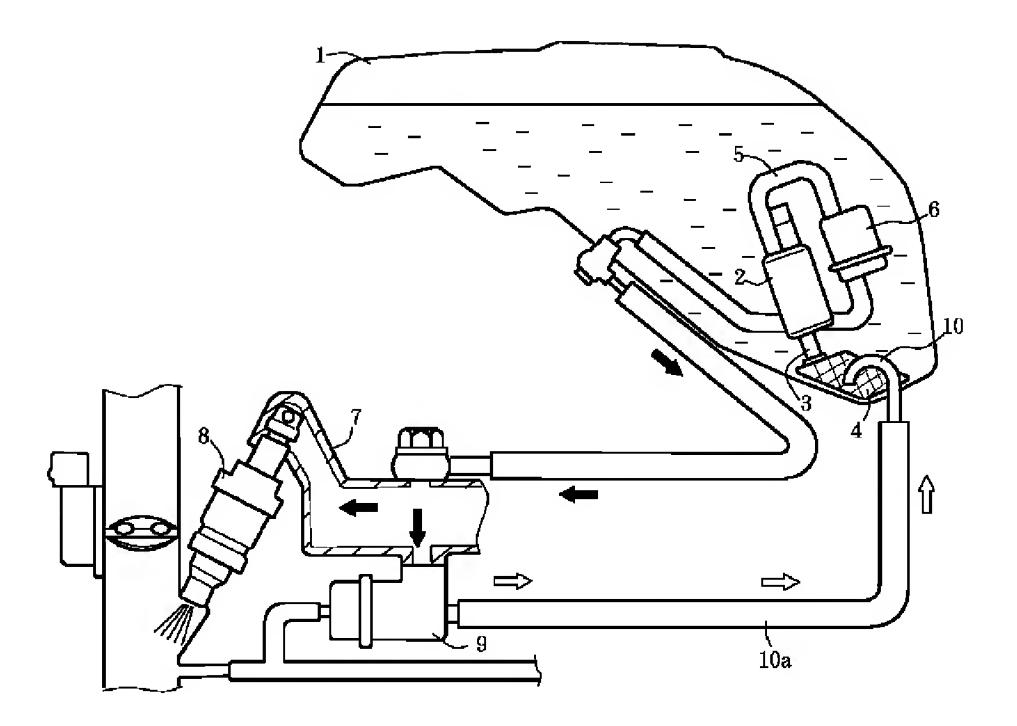


[Drawing 3]





[Drawing 6]



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WRITTEN AMENDMENT

----- [a procedure

revision]

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[Procedure amendment 1]

[Document to be Amended] Specification

[Item(s) to be Amended] 0022

[Method of Amendment] Modification

[Proposed Amendment]

[0022] It connects with the joint pipe of the branching terminal 39 established in the base plate 34 with the pipe 38, and the outlet side of the high-pressure fuel filter 6 is sent to a throttle body 7 from the branching terminal 39.

[Procedure amendment 2]

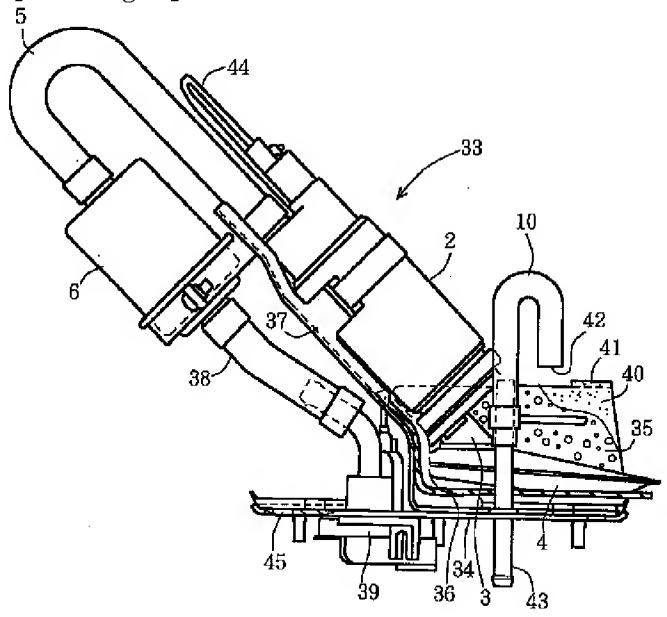
[Document to be Amended] DRAWINGS

[Item(s) to be Amended] drawing 3

[Method of Amendment] Modification

[Proposed Amendment]

[Drawing 3]



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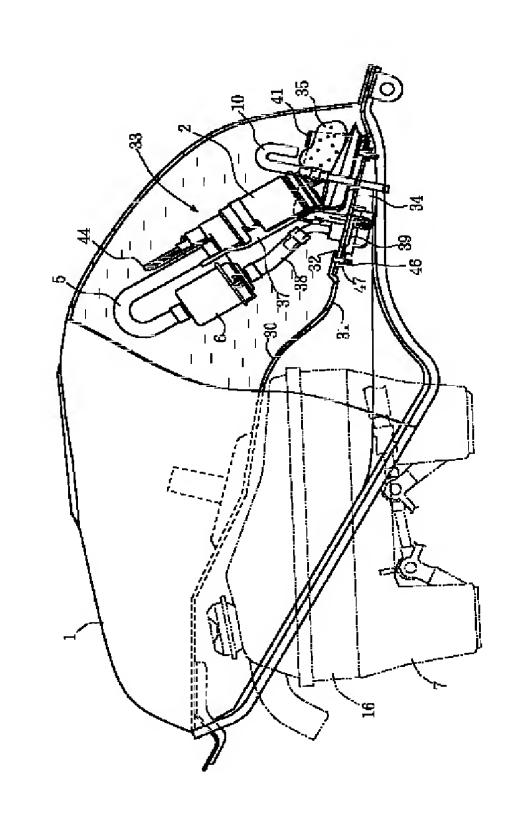
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(54) 【発明の名称】 車両用燃料供給装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】 戻り燃料の気液分離を良好にする。

【解決手段】燃料タンク1の底板30後端部に設けた平坦部31へ燃料ポンプ小組体33のベースプレート34を下方から取付け、燃料ポンプ2、吸入口3の接続するストレーナ4等を内部へ収容する。ストレーナ4の前方及び左右を覆う小型の隔壁36をゴム等の弾性体で形成し、その一部でストレーナ4の上に配設された燃料吸着部材35を支持する。燃料吸着部材35はステンレス製のコイルからなるスポンジ状フィルタであり、無数の微細な連通空隙を有し、この上に位置する燃料戻し管10から吐出される燃料を吸着するとともに、その過程で気液分離して液体燃料として燃料吸着部材35中に吸着した状態でストレーナ4の近傍に滞留させる。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】燃料タンクと、この内部に設けたストレーナを介して吸引した燃料をエンジンの燃料供給系へ送る燃料ポンプと、燃料供給系から余剰燃料を燃料タンク内へ戻す燃料戻し管とを備えた車両用燃料供給装置において、前記ストレーナと燃料戻し管先端部との間にスポンジ状の燃料吸着部材を配設したことを特徴とする車両用燃料供給装置。

【請求項2】前記燃料吸着部材が耐腐食性金属からなる ことを特徴とする請求項1に記載した車両用燃料供給装 置。

【請求項3】前記燃料タンク内において少なくとも燃料ポンプの吸入口近傍部分とその前方側部分とを仕切る隔壁を設けたことを特徴とする請求項1に記載した車両用燃料供給装置。

【請求項4】前記隔壁により燃料吸着部材を保持したことを特徴とする請求項3に記載した車両用燃料供給装置。

【請求項5】自動2輪車用に構成されたことを特徴とする請求項1乃至4のいずれかに記載した車両用燃料供給装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】この発明は自動2輪車等の車両に設けた燃料タンクからエンジンの燃料供給系へ燃料を供給するための車両用燃料供給装置に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】特開昭63-227949号には、燃料タンク内へサブタンクを設け、このサブタンク内へ燃料ポンプを設けるとともに、燃料戻し管の先端部を開口させた車両用燃料供給装置が示されている。また、図6には自動2輪車用のインタンク式ポンプを有する車両用燃料供給装置の概略構成が示されている。

【0003】この図6において、燃料タンク1内の後方最下部には燃料ポンプ2が設けられ、その吸入口3は樹脂製メッシュの異物除去フィルタを有するストレーナ4へ接続されている。燃料ポンプ2の吐出口から延出する吐出パイプ5は高圧燃料フィルタ6を介して、燃料タンク1外部のスロットルボデイ7へ送られ、さらにインジェクタ8からエンジンの燃焼室内へ噴射される。また、燃料の一部は余剰燃料としてスロットルボデイ7のプレッシャーレギュレータ9より、接続ホース10a及び燃料戻し管10を通ってストレーナ4近傍へ戻されている。

[0004]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】ところで、上記各公知例における燃料戻し管からの戻り燃料は多くの気体を含むため、燃料タンク又はサブタンク内の燃料が下限近傍になると、燃料ポンプが気体を含んだ燃料を吸引することにより、エンジンの息つき現象を生じることがある。

なお、この際におけるストレーナ内に設けられている金 網状の異物除去用フィルタは気液分離に役立っていな い。

【0005】また、自動2輪車の場合は、4輪自動車と 比べて加減速時や旋回時の車体姿勢変化が大きくなるの で、係る場合における燃料の液面変化によっても前記各 息つき現象を生じる可能性がある。したがって、これら に起因する息つき現象の防止が望まれている。

[0006]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記課題を解決するため、本願の車両用燃料供給装置に係る第1の発明は、燃料タンクと、この内部に設けたストレーナを介して吸引した燃料をエンジンの燃料供給系へ送る燃料ポンプと、燃料供給系から余剰燃料を燃料タンク内へ戻す燃料戻し管とを備えた車両用燃料供給装置において、前記ストレーナと燃料戻し管先端部との間にスポンジ状の吸着部材を配設したことを特徴とする。

【0007】ここで、燃料吸着部材を構成するスポンジ 状材料とは、多数の微細な連通空隙からなる多孔質材料 であって全体として弾性変形し易い弾性体であり、燃料 を内部に吸着する機能と、この吸着時に戻り燃料中に混 入する気体成分を除去する気液分離機能とを備えた材料 を意味し、天然素材、発泡合成樹脂又は金属素材で構成 される。一例として、燃料吸着部材を耐腐食性金属で形 成することができる。また、本願において前後方向並び に左右方向とは車両の進行方向を、上下方向とは車両の 走行時の状態をそれぞれ基準にするものとする。

【0008】第2の発明は、前記第1の発明において、前記燃料タンク内において少なくとも燃料ポンプの吸入口近傍部分とその前方側部分とを仕切る隔壁を設けたことを特徴とする。このとき、このこの隔壁により燃料吸着部材を保持することもできる。

【0009】第3の発明は、前記第1又は第2の発明の燃料供給装置を自動2輪車用にしたことを特徴とする。 【0010】

【発明の効果】第1の発明によれば、ストレーナと燃料戻し管先端部との間にスポンジ状の燃料吸着部材を配設したので、燃料戻し管からの戻り燃料は気液分離されて燃料吸着部材へ吸着されることによりストレーナの廻りに常時滞留する。したがって、燃料の下限近傍になっても燃料吸着部材から気液分離された液体燃料を供給できるので、息つき現象を防止できる。しかも、ストレーナの周囲に燃料吸着部材へ吸着された状態で滞留するから車体姿勢の変化にもあまり影響されずに燃料の供給が可能になる。

【0011】この燃料吸着部材は、発泡合成樹脂製等のスポンジ材料を用いて容易に形成することができ、弾性体のため振動に対する騒音も発生しにくくなる。また、燃料吸着部材を耐腐食性金属で形成すれば、酸性の戻り燃料に対しても十分な耐久性を得ることができ、かつ熱

伝導の良い金属のため戻り燃料を吸着中に冷却すること ができる。

【 0 0 1 2 】 第 2 の 発明によれば、前記燃料タンク内に設けた隔壁で、少なくとも燃料ポンプの吸入口近傍部分とその前方側部分とを仕切るので、制動時などの急減速時においても燃料ポンプの吸入口近傍における燃料の液面変化を少なくして息つき現象を防止できる。また、この隔壁を利用して燃料吸着部材を保持すれば、燃料吸着部材をストレーナ近傍へ容易に固定できる。

【0013】第3の発明によれば、この燃料供給装置を 自動2輪車用とすることにより、車体姿勢の変化が激し い自動2輪車においても息つき現象を有効に防止でき、 自動2輪車に好適な車両用燃料供給装置となる。

[0014]

【発明の実施の形態】図1は本願発明に係る自動2輪車用車両用燃料供給装置を示す断面図、図2はこの発明が適用された自動2輪車全体の外観側面図、図3は燃料ポンプ小組体の側面図、図4はその背面図、図5はその底面図である。なお、図6の例とは共通部分が多いため、これらについては以下の説明において共通符号を使用する。

【0015】まず、図2において、この自動2輪車は、前輪11と後輪12の間にV型4サイクル式のエンジン13が配設され、このエンジン13を吊り下げ支持するメインフレーム14はエンジン13の上方をヘッドパイプ15から左右一対をなして車体の前後方向へ延び、その上に燃料タンク1が支持されている。

【0016】燃料タンク1の底部は底上げされて下方に 空間が形成され、この空間に収容されたエアークリーナ 16からダウンドラフト式にエンジン13の各気筒へ吸 気され、かつスロットルボデイ7(図1)を介して燃料 タンク1の燃料が同時に供給されるようになっている。

【0017】また、スロットルボデイ7からは燃料の一部が後述するように戻り燃料として燃料タンク1内へ戻されている。スロットルボデイ7の詳細構造並びに燃料タンク1側との配管構造は省略してあるが、図6で説明したものと同様である。

【0018】なお、図中の符号20はハンドル、21はフロントフォーク、22はメインフレーム14の後部から斜め上がりに後方へ突出するシートレール支持部、23はリヤカウル、25はリヤスイングアームであり、エンジン13を構成するケース26の後端部へ前端を回動自在に直接支持されている。このケース26は上下割り構造で、その割面13aにクランク軸27、メインシャフト28、出力スプロケット軸(カウンターシャフト)29、ピボット軸25a等が略同一直線上に配列して支持されている。

【0019】図1に示すように、燃料タンク1の底板3 0は後方へ緩く斜め下がりになっており、その後部31 は平坦部をなし、ここに形成された開口部32へ燃料ポ ンプ小組体33が下方より取付けられ、そのベースプレート34で覆われている。

【0020】図3乃至図5にも示すように、燃料ポンプ 小組体33は、ベースプレート34上に燃料ポンプ2、 ストレーナ4、高圧燃料フィルタ6、燃料戻し管10、 燃料吸着部材35及び隔壁36等をひとまとめに小組し た部材である。

【0021】このうち、燃料ポンプ2はベースプレート34の中央部から上方へ突出するステー37により斜め前方へ傾斜して支持され、高圧燃料フィルタ6はステー37の上部で燃料ポンプ2の反対側へ取付けられている。燃料ポンプ2の吐出口と高圧燃料フィルタ6の入口側は吐出パイプ5で連結されている。

【0022】高圧燃料フィルタ6の出口側はパイプ38によりベースプレート34に設けられた分岐ターミナル39のジョイントパイプ40へ接続され、分岐ターミナル39からスロットルボデイ7へ送られる。

【0023】燃料ポンプ2の吸入口3はストレーナ4へ直接接続し、このストレーナ4内には金網状をなす公知の異物除去用フィルタが収容され、燃料中に混入する金属粉等の異物を除去するようになっている。

【0024】ストレーナ4の上には、ステンレス製の燃料吸着部材35が配設されている。この燃料吸着部材35は、ステンレス製の線材又は帯板状材をコイル状にし、これを輪状に巻いたりからませてブロック状にしたものであり、類似したものに家庭用の金属たわしとして周知のものがある。

【0025】このステンレス製燃料吸着部材35は、多孔質弾性体であり、ストレーナ4に設けられる金網状の異物除去用フィルタにおける網目の大きさと比べて遥かに微細な小孔状の開口をなすとともに遥かに大きな連通空隙を有するように形成され、この連通空隙の存在によって、吸着過程で戻り燃料中に混入する気体を燃料液体と分離できる構造になっている。

【0026】隔壁36は、ゴム等の比較的変形自在な弾性部材からなり、ストレーナ4より一回り大きい程度の寸法をなし、従来のサブタンク等を構成する隔壁に対して比較的小型の部材である。また、その高さは吸入口3、ストレーナ4及び燃料吸着部材35の前方側を覆うことができる程度で足りる。

【0027】燃料ポンプ2の下部及びストレーナ4及びの前方及び左右を覆うようにベースプレート34から上方へ立ち上がっており、その左右の側面40で燃料吸着部材35の左右も覆われるとともに、後部側及び上方は開放され、かつ側面40の後端上部間に左右方向へ延びる押さえ部41が一体に形成され、燃料吸着部材35の上部を押さえ付けている。

【0028】燃料吸着部材35上部は、押さえ部41で押さえられている部分を除いて露出しており、この上方に略U字状をなす燃料戻し管10の先端部42が下向き

に位置している。燃料戻し管10の他端側はベースプレート34を貫通して上下に延びるジョイントパイプ43の上端部に接続されている。ジョイントパイプ43の下端部は図示を省略してあるが接続ホース(図6の符号10a参照)によりスロットルボデイ7側へ接続されている。

【0029】なお、図3及び図4中の符号44は燃料ポンプ2の導線である。45はボルト通し穴であり、これにベースプレート34の外周部から一体に下方へ突出するボルト46を通し、ナット47で固定される。

【0030】次に、本実施例の作用を説明する。図1に示すように、燃料タンク1内の燃料は、燃料ポンプ2により、燃料タンク1のほぼ最下部に位置するストレーナ4及び吸入口3から吸入されて高圧燃料フィルタ6を介してスロットルボデイ7へ送られる。

【0031】一方、燃料戻し管10の先端部42から燃料吸着部材35の上へ吐出される戻り燃料は比較的多量の気体を混入するが、燃料吸着部材35が無数の微細な連通空隙を有することにより、燃料吸着部材35の間隙内へ気液分離された液体燃料として吸着され、ストレーナ4の近傍に滞留される。

【0032】したがって、燃料が下限近傍になっても、燃料吸着部材35からストレーナ4へ供給される燃料は気液分離された液体燃料のため、混入した気体成分に起因する息つき現象の発生が効果的に防止される。

【0033】また、燃料吸着部材35中の燃料は、燃料吸着部材35へ吸着された状態で滞留しているから、車体姿勢が変化しても移動しにくく、その結果、燃料吸着部材35周囲にある燃料の液面が波打っても、燃料吸着部材35から燃料を供給することによりその影響を著しく小さくすることができる。

【0034】このとき、燃料吸着部材35はステンレス製のスポンジ状フィルタとして構成されているので、酸性の強い燃料と接触しても腐食しにくく、十分な耐久性を備えるとともに、熱伝導の良い金属のため、燃料を吸着中に冷却することができ、これにより気液分離を一層効率的に行うことができるので、高温時における燃料圧の低下を少なくしてタフネスを向上させることができる。

【0035】さらに、隔壁36によりストレーナ4とその前方の空間とを所定高さに仕切ったので、前記のように車体姿勢が変化してもストレーナ4近傍における液面変化をさらに少なくできる。

【0036】特に、自動2輪車の場合は、急制動等によって燃料が急激に前方へ移動し易くなっているが、この隔壁36と燃料タンク1の後部壁との間にあるストレー

ナ4の近傍部分における燃料の液面変化を少なくすることに役立つ。

【0037】また、隔壁36をゴム等の弾性部材にしたので、走行中に燃料タンク1が振動し、これに伴って隔壁36も振動しても、接触する燃料ポンプ2やストレーナ4との間で騒音を発生させないようにできる。

【0038】そのうえ、隔壁36で変形し易い弾性部材である燃料吸着部材35を支持するので、燃料吸着部材35の支持が容易になるとともに、弾性部材相互の接触になるので、両部材間における騒音の発生も効果的に防止できる。

【0039】さらに、燃料タンク1の底板30と別体の燃料ポンプ小組体33側に隔壁36を設けることにより、燃料タンク1の底板30を複雑形状にプレス成形して隔壁を形成する必要がなく、底板30の燃料ポンプ小組体33を支持する部分は平坦部31として単純形状に成形できるので、燃料タンク1の成形も容易になる。

【0040】なお、本願発明は上記実施例に限定されず種々に変形可能であり、例えば、燃料吸着部材は金属を毛髪様の微細繊維状に形成した金属繊維をフェルト状にした金属ウールや、このような金属繊維を不織布又は織布もしくは編みもの状にしたものを使用できる。さらに、ポリウレタンフォームなどの適宜な合成樹脂製スポンジを使用することもでき、また海綿やスポンジゴムのような天然素材を用いることもできる。

【0041】さらに、燃料供給を燃料噴射式でなく気化器を用いた自然吸気式にすることもでき、また、燃料ポンプの配置形式は実施例のようなインタンク式でなく、燃料タンクの外部へ出した形式でもよい。さらにまた、適用対象は、自動2輪車のみならず4輪乗用車などの各種車両が可能である。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】実施例に係る自動2輪車用車両用燃料供給装置 を示す断面図

【図2】本願発明が適用された自動2輪車全体の外観の側面図。

【図3】燃料ポンプ小組体の側面図

【図4】燃料ポンプ小組体の背面図

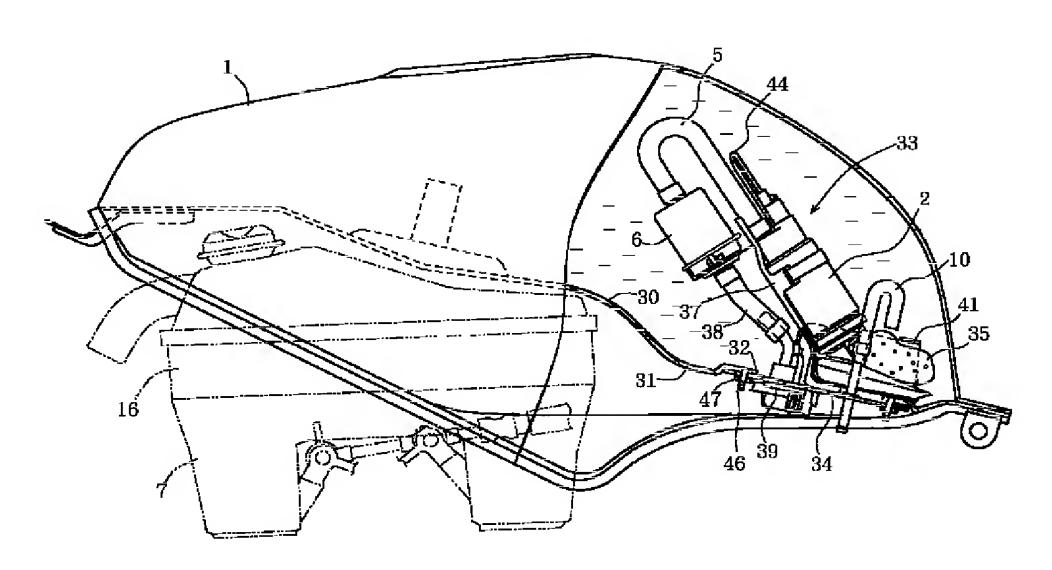
【図5】燃料ポンプ小組体の底面図

【図6】従来の自動2輪車用車両用燃料供給装置を概略 的に示す図

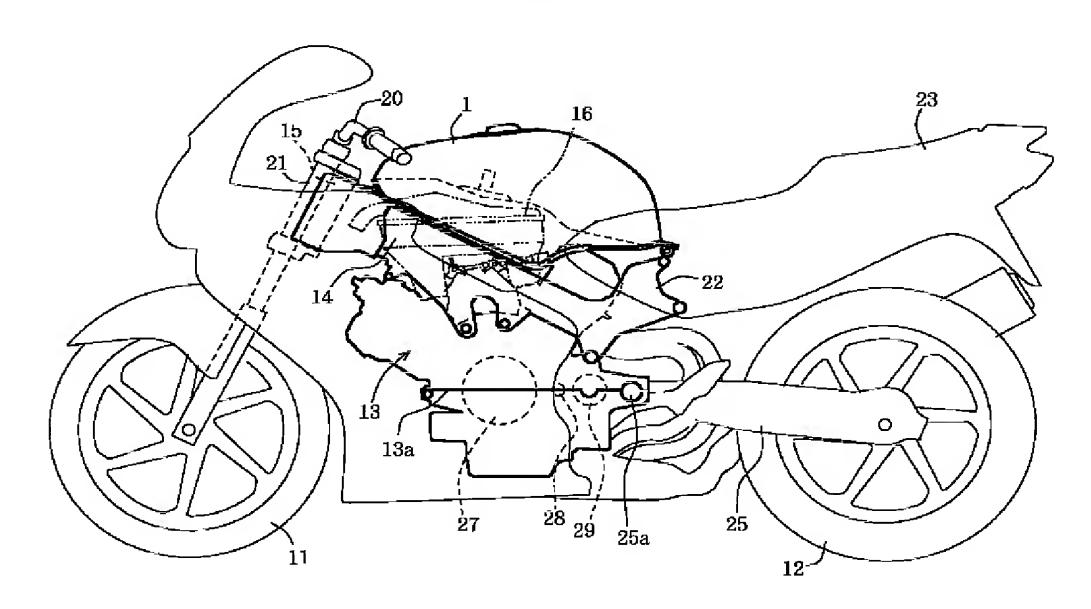
【符号の説明】

1:燃料タンク、2:燃料ポンプ、3:吸入口、4:ストレーナ、10:ストレーナ、33:燃料ポンプ小組体、34:ベースプレート、35:燃料吸着部材、36:隔壁

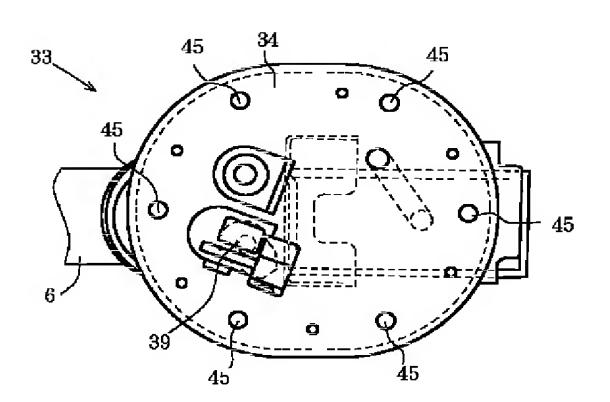
【図1】

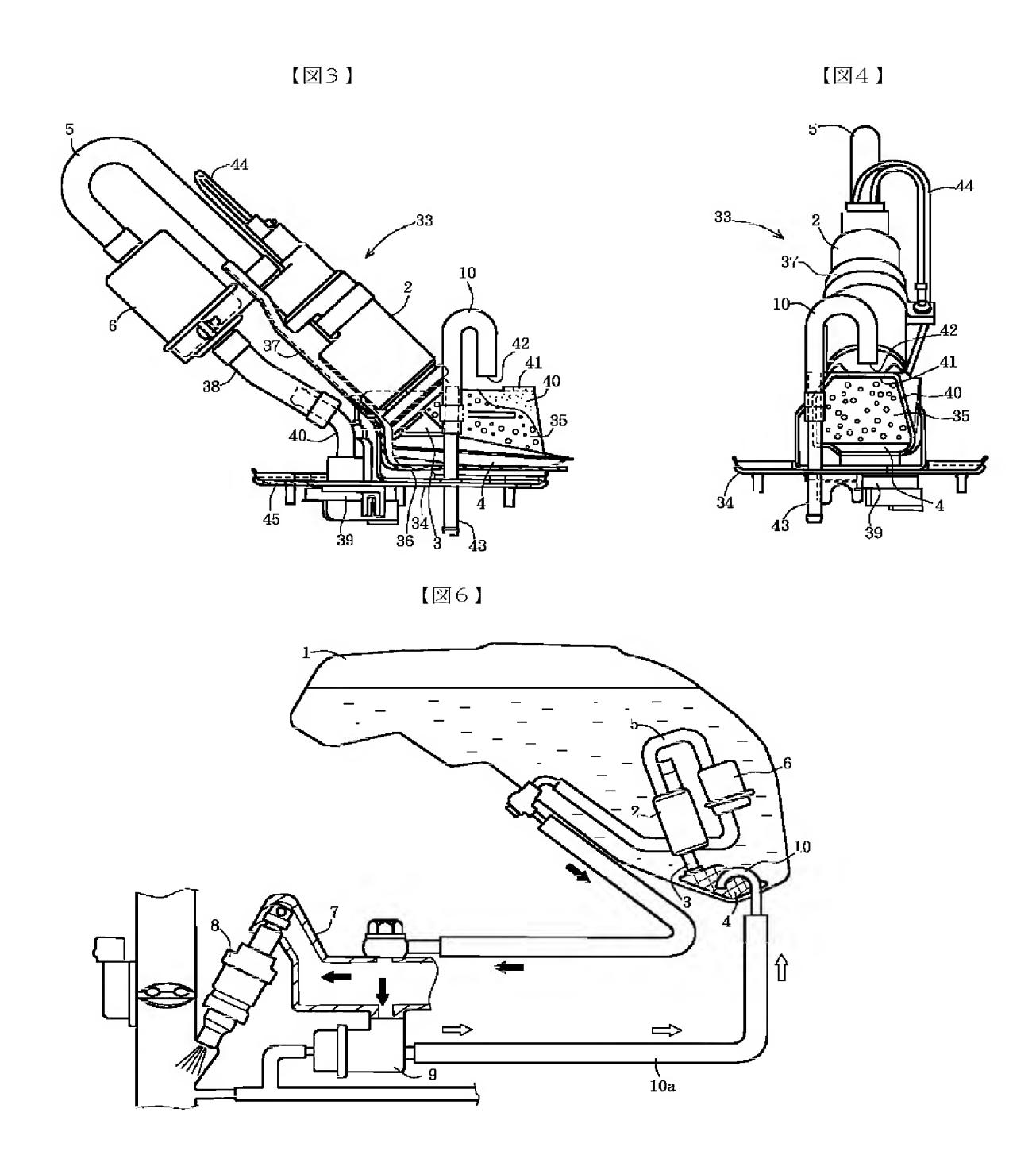


【図2】



【図5】





【手続補正書】

【提出日】平成10年5月8日

【手続補正1】

【補正対象書類名】明細書

【補正対象項目名】0022

【補正方法】変更

【補正内容】

【0022】高圧燃料フィルタ6の出口側はパイプ38 によりベースプレート34に設けられた分岐ターミナル 39のジョイントパイプへ接続され、分岐ターミナル3 9からスロットルボデイ7へ送られる。

【手続補正2】

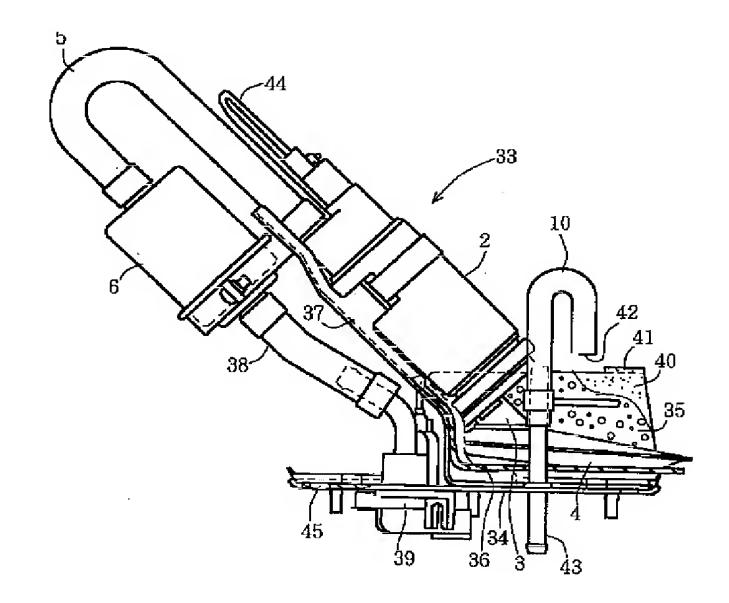
【補正対象書類名】図面

【補正対象項目名】図3

【補正方法】変更

【補正内容】

【図3】



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